

START

Department of Energy

Richland Field Office

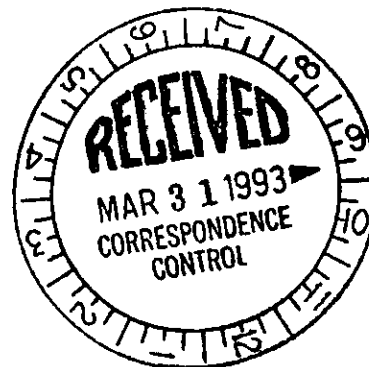
P.O. Box 550

Richland, Washington 99352

9301682

MAR 16 1993

93-TWD-004



Mr. Roger Stanley, Program Manager
Nuclear and Mixed Waste Management
State Of Washington
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Mr. Stanley:

HANFORD TANK WASTE REMEDIATION SYSTEM REBASELINING AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Thank you for your January 19, 1993, letter that provided comments and written clarification of your expectations for the Tank Waste Remediation System (TWRS) rebaselining effort. In response to your letter, I want to propose a combined effort to seek public involvement in decision-making on the TWRS program, and address the comments provided in your letter.

Public Involvement

Participation in recent public meetings in Washington and Oregon have reinforced our opinion that the public and interested advisory councils must be included in the decision-making process for remediation of tank waste. I believe that the public is very interested in developing the solution to tank waste remediation; limiting public involvement to comment on proposals submitted by the Department of Energy (DOE) and the regulators will not meet public expectations.

Development of the New Technical Strategy provides an excellent opportunity for DOE and the regulators to break with historical practices and embark on a new path of public participation. I recommend that we actively seek public involvement in the decision-making process. We can present the range of alternatives considered for remediation of tank waste, identify the bounding alternatives that satisfy program objectives, and solicit public involvement in identification of a preferred alternative. The results from the public involvement will provide the direction for the TWRS program and potential changes to *Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order* (Tri-Party Agreement) commitments.

We believe that public involvement is essential to the understanding of problems being confronted by DOE and the regulators in the remediation of tank waste at Hanford. In preparation for this public involvement effort, we request your continued involvement in the development of the New Technical Strategy, and to work with us to develop a public involvement process.

Response to Department of Ecology comments

- Our objective for the TWRS program remains unchanged: development of an integrated strategy for remediation of tank waste that includes safe storage, characterization, retrieval, treatment, and immobilization of tank waste for disposal. Our March 1993 product will be a New Technical Strategy, presenting bounding alternatives for an integrated program. Once this strategy is complete, we can implement public involvement.
- Establishment of enforceable milestones for the TWRS program under the Tri-Party Agreement presents a significant challenge for all parties. The New Technical Strategy will provide sufficient detail to identify where changes to existing Tri-Party Agreement milestones are required due to technical reasons, and identify critical new milestones for near-term actions for tank waste remediation. However, our ability to propose and commit to a complete series of Tri-Party Agreement milestones for any feature of the TWRS program is dependent on the results of public involvement and further technical development of the selected alternative.
- I share your focus in achieving early progress on remediation of tank wastes at the Hanford site; the alternatives presented in the New Technical Strategy reflect a bias for action. Activities presented in your letter are critical to our success in immobilizing tank waste for disposal.
- We believe that decisions on critical TWRS program actions are essential to implement a New Technical Strategy. Our strategy will reflect bounding options to satisfy primary decisions on single-shell tanks stabilization, grout, and vitrification, reflecting mature solutions for near-term actions.

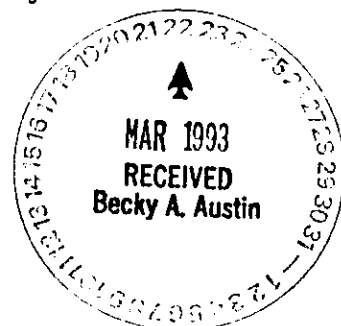
We value the interest and involvement you and your staff have demonstrated during development of the New Technical Strategy for the TWRS program, and will continue to seek your active involvement to realize the objectives of the TWRS program.

Sincerely,


John H. Anttonen, Acting Program Manager
Office of Tank Waste Remediation System

TWD:LE

cc: J. C. Tseng, EM-36
B. A. Austin, WHC ✓
P. T. Day, EPA



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Author

Addressee

J. H. Anttonen, RL

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